TPMA
Texas Podiatric Medical Association

Learn. Grow. Make a Difference.



6 MODULES
8 HOURS
OF ONLINE EDUCATION

TPMA Podiatric Medical Assistant Online Course

Build your knowledge. Strengthen your skills. Support better patient care.

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Podiatric Medicine
- Common Pathologies
- Medications in Podiatry
- Foot Examination
- Diabetic Foot Care



Complete the Course & Receive a TPMA Certificate of Completion

FLEXIBLE. CONVENIENT. ONLINE.
EXPERT FACULTY
PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE
BETTER PATIENT OUTCOMES

ENROLL TODAY →

Course Overview

The TPMA Podiatric Medical Assistant Online Course provides a practical foundation in podiatric medicine for medical assistants working in or entering a foot and ankle practice. The six-module program covers essential anatomy, podiatric conditions, medications, foot examinations, and diabetic foot care.

Designed with the podiatric medical assistant's role in mind, the program emphasizes practical knowledge, patient safety, documentation, communication with the podiatric team, and recognizing findings that should be brought to the podiatrist's attention.

Complete the course and receive a Certificate of Completion.

8 HOURS ONLINE EDUCATION

FLEXIBLE • CONVENIENT • ONLINE

Expert Faculty • Practical Knowledge

Everyday Application

Faculty & Program Information

Lilly Khavari, DPM, DABPM, FACPM
Private Practice, Carrollton Foot Center, PLLC, Carrollton, TX

Cyril Thomas, PhD
CEO, Arista Groups, Houston, TX

Tyler Coye, DPM
Assistant Professor, Surgery Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy
Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX

For Podiatric Practices & Employers

The TPMA Podiatric Medical Assistant Online Course can also be used as an educational resource for practice staff training and onboarding. Employers may use the program to help medical assistants build foundational knowledge in podiatric medicine and support ongoing staff education.

- Convenient online format for staff training and professional development.
- Six focused modules covering essential podiatric topics.
- Practical content designed around the PMA role in the clinical setting.
- Certificate of Completion for participants who complete the course.

Certificate of Completion

Participants who successfully complete the course receive a TPMA Certificate of Completion documenting completion of the six-module, 8-hour educational program.

Important: The TPMA Certificate of Completion documents completion of an educational program. It is not a state-issued license or professional certification and does not independently authorize the holder to perform any clinical procedure or task. Clinical duties remain subject to applicable law, employer policies, physician delegation, training, and supervision.

What You'll Learn

Participants will build knowledge they can apply in the clinical setting while developing a stronger understanding of the PMA's role as part of the podiatric healthcare team.

- Understand the anatomy and physiology of the foot and ankle and common podiatric terminology.
- Gain a foundational understanding of podiatric medicine and the role of the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM).
- Recognize common podiatric conditions and important red-flag findings.
- Develop familiarity with medications commonly used in podiatry and medication-related emergencies.
- Understand the components of a comprehensive podiatric foot examination.
- Strengthen knowledge of diabetic foot care, screening, wound assessment, prevention, and escalation.

Course Modules

Module 1 – Foot & Ankle Anatomy and Physiology

Presentation/Study/Review Time: 90 minutes

Faculty: Cyril Thomas, PhD

Overview: This lecture provides a practical introduction to the anatomy and physiology of the foot and ankle for new podiatry staff. Participants will learn the major bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, tendons, nerves, blood vessels, and supporting structures of the foot and ankle, along with the basic movements and functions involved in standing, balance, and walking. The course emphasizes terminology and anatomical concepts that staff are likely to encounter in everyday podiatric practice.

Learning Objectives:
By the end of this lecture, participants will be able to:

- Identify the major anatomical regions and structures of the foot and ankle, including bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, and tendons.
- Describe basic foot and ankle movements and explain how the foot functions during weight-bearing and walking.
- Recognize commonly used anatomical terminology and relate it to everyday descriptions of foot and ankle locations.

Module 2 – Introduction to Podiatric Medicine

Presentation/Study/Review Time: 120 minutes

Faculty: Cyril Thomas, PhD

Overview: This lecture provides an introduction to the field of podiatric medicine, including the role and training of the podiatric physician, the scope of practice, patient populations served, major areas of podiatric care, and the healthcare team involved in delivering foot and ankle services. The course is designed to help new staff understand how podiatric care is structured and how administrative and clinical support roles contribute to the patient experience.

Learning Objectives:
By the end of this lecture, participants will be able to:

- Describe the role, education, and general scope of practice of a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM).
- Identify the major categories of podiatric care and the patient populations commonly served in a podiatry practice.
- Explain how members of the podiatric healthcare team work together to support safe, efficient, and patient-centered care.

Module 3 – Common Podiatric Pathologies

Presentation/Study/Review Time: 60 minutes

Faculty: Lilly Khavari, DPM, DABPM, FACPM

Overview: This lecture reviews the foot and ankle conditions PMAs encounter most often. Topics are organized into five areas: nail conditions, skin conditions, structural deformities, soft-tissue and biomechanical problems, and systemic or vascular conditions. Each condition includes an overview of its causes, common signs and symptoms, and the PMA's role in patient care. The lecture concludes with important red flags that require prompt escalation to the provider.

Learning Objectives:
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Module 4 – Common Medications Used in Podiatry

Presentation/Study/Review Time: 90 minutes

Faculty: Lilly Khavari, DPM, DABPM, FACPM

Overview: An overview of topical medications, oral antimicrobials, pain and inflammation management, local anesthetics, and medications for systemic and chronic conditions. The course emphasizes medication safety and warning signs.

Learning Objectives:
- Identify major medication classes commonly used in podiatric practice and their primary clinical uses.
- Describe important side effects and precautions and the PMA's role in safely preparing, administering, and dispensing medications.
- Recognize medication-related emergencies, including anaphylaxis, local anesthetic toxicity, and opioid overdose.

Module 5 – Performing a Foot Examination

Presentation/Study/Review Time: 60 minutes

Faculty: Lilly Khavari, DPM, DABPM, FACPM

Overview: The presentation is organized into five key areas: topical medications, oral antimicrobials, pain and inflammation management, local anesthetics, and medications for systemic and chronic conditions. The slides use a variety of formats, including key statistics, a topical steroid potency ladder, a comparison of lidocaine and bupivacaine, medication safety checklists, and a quick-reference table. It concludes with important warning signs to recognize, including anaphylaxis, local anesthetic toxicity, GI bleeding, and opioid overdose.

Learning Objectives:

- By the end of this lecture, participants will be able to:
- Identify the major medication classes commonly used in podiatric practice and understand their primary clinical uses.
- Describe important side effects and precautions, as well as the PMA's role in safely preparing, administering, and dispensing medications.
- Recognize medication-related emergencies—including anaphylaxis, local anesthetic toxicity, and opioid overdose—and respond appropriately.

Module 6 – Diabetic Foot Care: Role of the PMA in Patient Education

Presentation/Study/Review Time: 60 minutes

Faculty: Tyler Coye, DPM

Overview: This one-hour presentation provides medical assistants with a practical approach to caring for patients with diabetes who are at risk for foot complications. The presentation focuses on recognizing diabetic foot risk factors, performing and supporting structured foot screening, documenting wounds, reinforcing offloading and prevention strategies, and recognizing findings that require urgent clinician escalation. The goal is not for medical assistants to independently diagnose diabetic foot disease, but to improve early recognition, communication, and patient safety.

Learning Objectives:

- By the end of this lecture, participants will be able to:
- Identify major risk factors for diabetic foot ulceration, including loss of protective sensation, peripheral arterial disease, deformity, callus, and prior ulceration or amputation.
- Describe a systematic diabetic foot screening and wound-assessment workflow, including appropriate use of monofilament testing, inspection, wound documentation, and assessment of offloading adherence.
- Recognize and appropriately escalate limb-threatening findings including diabetic foot infection, ischemia, gangrene, suspected osteomyelitis, and acute Charcot neuroarthropathy.